

Diversity Task Group meeting minutes 3/9/15

In attendance:

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Yawa Degboe	yawa.degboe@gmail.com

Claire: Minutes of last meeting will be circulated for approval.

Introductions.

Announcements:

- 1) Claire – Lobby at State House Thurs March 19th to protest decreased METCO funding. Miriam reminded group of the process related to budget and urged those present to contact legislators to ask the METCO program be fully funded.
- 2) David – recommended an interview he heard on the WBUR show Radio Open Source hosted by Christopher Lydon. <http://radioopensource.org/after-attica/>

- 3) Miriam – upcoming Advocacy Workshop at First Parish Church in Concord on Sunday, March 22nd 2-3.30pm.
- 4) DTG sponsored panel discussion World Peace Through Books at Robbins Library on Tuesday, March 26th 7-8.30pm
- 5) A Road Map Towards Justice: how to end mass incarceration in Massachusetts workshop. At First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington on Saturday, March 14th 1-4.30pm. Alan, Jill and Bonie planning to attend.
- 6) Vision 20:20 End of year celebration to be held on June 10th.
- 7) ACMI. Viewing times for recent panel discussion. Bonie sent out link to enable viewing on demand. Yawa brought hard copy DVD. Andrea Nicolay offered to keep it at Robbins Library under with non-fiction DVDs.
- 8) Fred Ryan circulated Boston Globe Ideas section article
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2015/03/08/how-criminal-records-hold-americans-back/bFnOmPhZKeimlafcPU5mml/story.html>
- 9) Bob Sprague's article in Your Arlington on 3/5/15 was seen as very positive by the group.
<http://www.yourarlington.com/search/news-archive/374-police/7400-justice-030215.html>
- 10) Anna Watson forwarded to the group information about a "Discussion to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth" at Robbins Library on Tuesday, March 10th 6.30-8.30pm.
- 11) Mystic Valley Area Branch NAACP forwarded information about Unity Relay for Justice May 15th – May 22nd
- 12) Alan and David recommended movie which showed at Regent Theater on Sunday, March 8th which was 3 hours of archival footage of Dr Martin Luther King's speeches. Event was poorly attended. Jane suggested talking to Alberto Guzman to see if it could be publicized and shown again. Opportunity to discuss this with him on Thursday, March 12th 5-7pm at the Arlington International Film Festival poster contest awards event.
- 13) Brooks informed group that the combined Mankind Project of NY and New England is organizing open circle meetings specifically for GBTQ men. Bonie asks if any outreach can be done specifically towards southeast Asian men.

Claire reminded the group that everyone who is active in a town group is supposed to complete ethics training online every 2 years. A link will be circulated to the group to access this training.

Andrea Nicolay, Acting Director of Robbins Library addressed the DTG regarding the upcoming Community Reads event. This year's Community Reads book is "My sister lives on the Mantelpiece" by Annabel Pitcher. She described the upcoming March 24th event which is co-sponsored by DTG. A panel discussion with 3 panelists who are all members of an interfaith book group known as Daughters of Abraham. Andrea asked for the guidance of DTG members regarding managing the discussion and additional questions. Discussion ensued which Andrea commented was very helpful. Miriam and Claire observed the uniqueness of the personal aspect of this panel's experience and encouraged Andrea to bring that out. Yawa advocated breaking the hour of panel presentation into

3 clearly-defined parts followed by a half hour of Q & A. Yawa also mentioned working on a show on a similar theme for ACMI.

Mary led a debriefing of the Unequal Justice event. The group shared their thoughts on Plusses and Deltas, which Mary will summarize and share at a later date.